GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1663
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003
WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON SERVICES
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has filed requests at WTO relating to services under Doha Declaration;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the services that India has shown interest in;

(c) the status of negotiations on the issue;

(d) whether negotiations on emergency safeguard measures have been concluded as planned;

(e) whether any specific commitments have been arrived at; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (c) Yes, Sir. India has submitted requests in the sectors of Accounting, Architecture, Health, Computer related, Construction & Engineering, Financial, Audio-visual, Tourism and Maritime Transport services to a large number of trading partners. Thee requests are part of the request-offer process that is underway at the WTO. Further negotiations in response to the requests and offers tabled by each member country would take place on a bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral basis.

(d) Negotiations on Emergency Safeguard Measures(ESM) continue to take place at the WTO and are scheduled to be concluded by March 31, 2004.

(e) & (f) The negotiations towards specific market access and national treatment commitments to be undertaken by each member country of the WTO are continuing. So far, about 40 countries have submitted their `initial offers` for such commitments but final schedules of commitments would be worked out only towards the end of this round of negotiations, which is presently slated for 1.1.2005.